



State of Illinois

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

159058 E.1

9/7/93

Mary A. Gade, Director

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, IL 62794-9276

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 7, 1993  
From: Paul E. Takács, BOL/DRM/FSMU  
To: Terry G. Ayers, BOL/DRM/FSMU  
Subject: L1631210001 -- St. Clair County  
Sauget & Company (Site Q) -- Sauget  
Superfund/Technical Reports

On August 30, 1993, Explorer Pipeline Company (Explorer) notified this agency of a possible leak in a section of their gasoline pipeline that transects Site Q. The leak was suspected after an oil sheen appeared over a flooded portion of the site. An excavation around the pipeline did not reveal leaking product from the pipeline, nor did a pressure test that was carried out by Explorer.

After an inspection of the open excavation, the cause of the sheen is now suspected of being caused by groundwater infiltration into the original pipeline excavation ditch. The currently high groundwater elevations (associated with prolonged flood stage river levels) could likely have induced groundwater contaminants from unknown nearby source area(s) into the pipeline excavation. A black oily product, a greenish-yellow product and petroleum hydrocarbon-type sheening were observed in the ditch beneath the pipeline during the inspection. Because hydrocarbon odors and leachate seeps were noted on the river side of the levee directly south of the pipeline, an upgradient fuel storage facility owned by Phillips Petroleum as well as other pipelines in the vicinity should be investigated as sources of petroleum contamination.

Several groundwater samples and one soil sample were taken from the ditch. Explorer had initially taken groundwater samples because of their concerns over pipeline coatings, which were completely dissolved in some sections of the pipeline.

cc: Kim Hubbert  
Tom Crause  
Jim Janssen  
Division File